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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group art unit: 3681  
Examiner: to be assigned

In Re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Applicant(s): Tomoyuki TAKEI et al.

Serial No.: 10/594,629

Filed: September 28, 2006

For: PINION SHAFT

Attorney ref.: AI 432 NP

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**PRELIMINARY  
AMENDMENT**

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November 15, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir or Madam:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the application as follows: